



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Leblanc

For: A Pipe or the Like, A Female End Ring, and a Method of Manufacturing such a Pipe or the Like

Serial No.: 10/026,357

Filed: 12/21/2001

Attorney Docket No.: MART0780US

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 19, 2002.

Howard F. Mandelbaum

Dated: February 19, 2002.

Levine & Mandelbaum
350 Fifth Avenue - Room 7814
New York, N.Y. 10118
(212) 239-4162
588-9800
February 19, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as shown in Appendixes A (clean form) and B (insertions and deletions visible) before computing the filing fee in the above identified patent application.

REMARKS

The amendments have been made to a specification translated from French for greater consistency with U.S. idiom and practice, and to avoid multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard F. Mandelbaum
Registration No. 27,519
Attorney for Applicant

HFM:cnt

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Appendix A

Claims as Amended February 19, 2002

Retyped In Clean Form